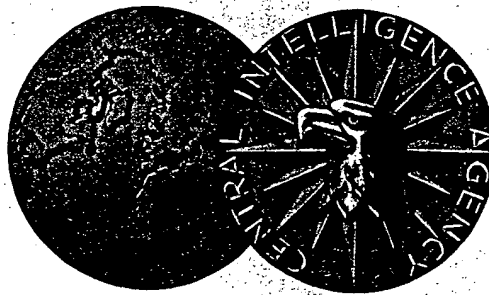


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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Number 43

25 MAR 1949

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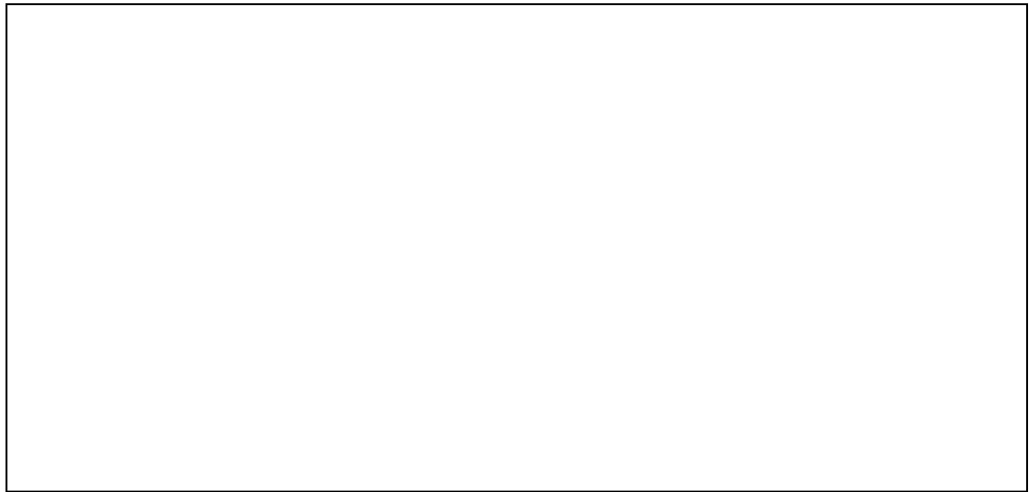
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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FINLAND

Soviet Pressure Soviet propaganda pressure against Finland is becoming more intense and hostile and may soon be accompanied by Finnish Communist attempts to instigate wide-spread strikes. The Kremlin has probably decided to bear down on Finland, after nearly a year of comparatively peaceful relations, because of a growing fear that Finland may gradually slip further toward the western camp and the realization that only through this type of intimidation can the USSR hope to weaken Scandinavian support for the Atlantic Pact. Soviet propaganda against Finland suggests that the groundwork is being laid for a formal accusation that Finland is violating the Peace Treaty or the Finnish-Soviet non-aggression pact. Either accusation could be used as an excuse for more direct Soviet intervention in Finnish affairs. Meanwhile, Finland's Social Democratic government, although it will attempt to avoid antagonizing the USSR, shows no signs of acceding to Finnish Communist demands for representation in the government and will probably take strong measures to suppress any Communist strikes.

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